

South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702

Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil

June 24, 2008
PAO 06-24-08

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bravo Battery's mission in Iraq changes

By Spc. Charles Butler, Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR)

COB ADDER, Iraq – After six months in the hot desert Iraqi desert, Bravo Battery has loaded up its belongings and moved on to a new camp and a new mission.

The South Dakota Army National Guard unit's move to Contingency Operations Base - Adder places them near the city of An Nasiriyah, which is about 190 miles southeast of Baghdad.

The actual move was less than five miles away from Convoy Support Center Cedar II, where the unit was stationed for its first six months. But still, the move was not an easy task.

"The multiple mission changes caused great challenges for the supply section to overcome and complete the task of moving," said Staff Sgt. Kurt Bies of Salem, S.D., unit supply sergeant. "However, we took on the challenge and worked hard to make sure the move was successful."

Bravo Battery's new mission is to provide convoy security for the 69th Forward Support Company – a mission it has trained on since leaving for Camp Shelby, Miss., last fall.

"The change of mission is nice," said Spc. Jacob Ford of Lead, S.D., who is serving as a convoy gunner. "Now we get to see a lot of the country, instead of just around the base."

Since arriving in country, the unit's mission was to provide base security at CSC Cedar II. Now, it provides security for logistical supply convoys that are distributing supplies throughout various locations in theater and the unit is planning to continue this mission until its return home.

"It's rewarding," Ford said. "Knowing that we are ensuring supplies reach their destination so operations can continue throughout theater."

Bravo Battery started moving Soldiers to COB Adder in early April and completed the

move in mid-April. Bravo Battery started transitioning for its new role in the middle of March but was delayed a month when the mission of the unit that was to replace them got redirected forcing Bravo Battery to continue the base defense for CSC Cedar II.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, or cell (605) 431-8753.

Photo Cut Lines:



080406-A-B0933-012: Spc. Lucas Waddell of Marvin, S.D., climbs from a humvee gunner's turret as B Battery makes one of several trips hauling Soldiers and equipment from Convoy Support Center (CSC) Cedar II to Contingency Operations Base (COB) Adder near An Nasiriyah, which is about 190 miles southeast of Baghdad. (Army Photo by Spc. Charles Butler)(RELEASED)

Link to Photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/080406-A-B0933-012.jpg>



080512-A-H7373-003: Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Donovan of Chamberlain, S.D., conducts pre-combat inspections on a convoy escort team on the staging lanes prior to a mission in Iraq. (Army Photo by Spc. Brett Hanes)(RELEASED)

Link to Photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/080512-A-H7373-003.jpg>

NOTE 1: Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery is a South Dakota Army National Guard unit headquartered in Salem and Sioux Falls. The unit is currently stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder located on Tallil Air Base near An Nasiriyah, Iraq, approximately 193 miles southeast of Baghdad. The 180 Soldiers of Battery B arrived in Iraq in early January and are conducting various security missions for the next 10 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

NOTE 2: Since the terrorist attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 780 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terror.

Currently, more than 340 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations throughout Southwest Asia. More than 3,800 National Guardsmen are available in South Dakota to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.